

CULTURE AND INTELLECTUALS

Alapayevsk, Rezh, Artyomovsk Districts and the Alapayevsk City is a zone of a splendid natural landscape, a richest trasury of minerals, a land of mineral springs, and unique mud, on the basis of which there were constructed health resorts and spas in Lipovka and «Samotsvety» («Gem-Stones»).

The main miracle of this land is its people, possessing a civic and spiritual courage, — students of local lore, enlighteners, restorers, musicians, teachers, — true intellectuals of the Russian land. Unique museums have been established by their hands: a Museum of Wooden Architecture in the settlement of Nizhnaya Sinyachiha, and a Museum of P.I.Chaikovsky. These are People's Academicians of the Demidovs Academy of Amateur Arts and Crafts — Ivan Danilovich Samoilov and Vera Borisovna Gorodilina.

Fortunes of Russian intellectuals is a problem of a truly international importance, going far beyond the national limits. Though Russia lagged behind Western civilizations in the area of economics and politics, well-being of the people, production of labour, — far from being so in the area of culture, Russia has always been known to be in the front line of cultural development of mankind. Even in the years of totalitarian regime, contribution of Russia into the world culture was indeed invaluable.

It is the Russian Intellectuals that we give credit of this contribution.

Today, this section of the Russian population is in a very difficult situation. It is not only the matter of low living standards of the majority of intellectuals and sometimes lack of common conditions for fruitful creative work, but also the matter of other negative moments to which we should refer:

- 1) presence, among intellectuals, of a great number of «educated ones» with low professional skill and lacking culture who, to our mind, cannot in general be called intellectuals;
- 2) considerable stratification of intellectuals in relation to their political views. Intellectuals are members of literally all political parties and movements of Russia;
- 3) pessimism of a considerable part of intellectuals which leads to «brain drain»;

4) weak self-consciousness of a part of intellectuals, underestimation of its place and role in the society;

All this gives the officials the right to infringe intellectuals, to still use the «remainder principle» in regard to culture.

It is not by chance that in the Conference organized by UNESCO, workshop dedicated to intellectuals turned out to be the least uniform in regard to topics of reports: part of them, strictly speaking, has nothing to do with the theme of discussion. However, the Organizing Committee considered it possible to publish some of these reports which present a certain interest, though they are rather far from the theme of the workshop. In this sense, the very themes of the workshop reports reflect the present level of self-consciousness of our intellectuals.

CULTURE AND EDUCATION

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Krasnoufimsk is situated 300 km to the west of Yekaterinburg, in a very picturesque locality which is called Russian Switzerland. Nature here fully reflects a special physical and geographical position of the Urals as the border between Europe and Asia. Not far from Yekaterinburg (40 km) there is a high marble obelisk with an inscription «Europe-Asia» — here is a conventional border between the two continents.

Krasnoufimsk with its neighbourhood is an example of a multinational district where Tatars, Bashkirs, Russians, Mordovians, Ukrainians, Germans, etc., live for centuries in peace and friendship, displaying a greatest patience, wisdom and mutual respect

In the course of the round-table discussion, participants, taking into consideration documents and ideas of UNESCO, its programme in the area of education and culture for 1996-2000, mention the necessity and importance:

- of close relations between education and culture in the course of their development in the Urals and Siberia, search of ways of their further rapprochement in the process of forming personality of young people;

- of aiming the activities of cultural and educational organizations and institutions at achievement of democracy as a form of people's behavior based on adherence to peace, tolerance, peaceful settlement of conflicts, justice, on understanding of the fact that democracy exists both around us and inside us, on recognition of the fact that the main task of all